

REMARKS

Applicants note and appreciate the indication that claims 14, 15, 16 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, the subject matter of dependent claim 14 has been incorporated into independent claim 12 from which claim 14 directly depended and claim 14 has been cancelled. Therefore, independent claim 12, as amended, and its dependent claims 13 and 15-23 are believed to be in allowable form.

The claims rejections and objections to claims 20-23 have also been addressed. In particular, claims 20-23 have been amended so that they are directed to a "method" in accordance with the U.S. patent practices. The claim informalities as to claim 20 have been corrected as suggested by the Examiner.

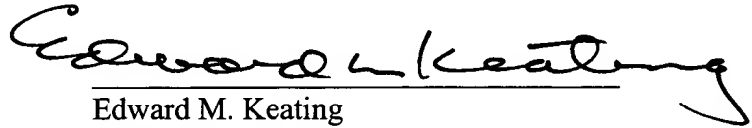
In addition, the informalities as to the specification and drawings have also been corrected. The specification has been amended to include section headings, to delete reference to the claims by specific number, and other minor misspellings. Substitute specifications under 37 C.F.R. 1.125 are being submitted herewith in both a marked-up form and a clean form. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.125(b), applicant hereby states that the substitute specification includes no new matter. Accordingly, entry of this substitute specification is respectfully requested.

As to the drawings, the drawings have been corrected in the manner suggested by the Examiner so that Figures 1 and 2 are provided on a first sheet of drawings and Figures 3 and 4 are provided on a second sheet of drawings so as to prevent the drawings from running together on one sheet. Figure 4 has also been corrected so that it now includes a prior art legend. A

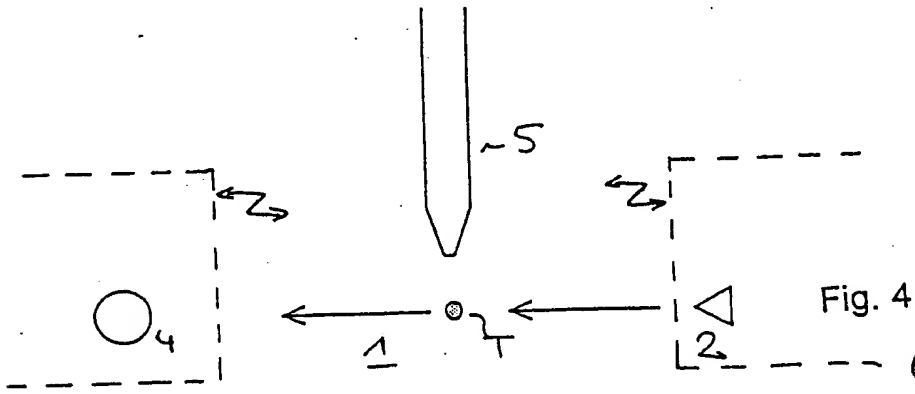
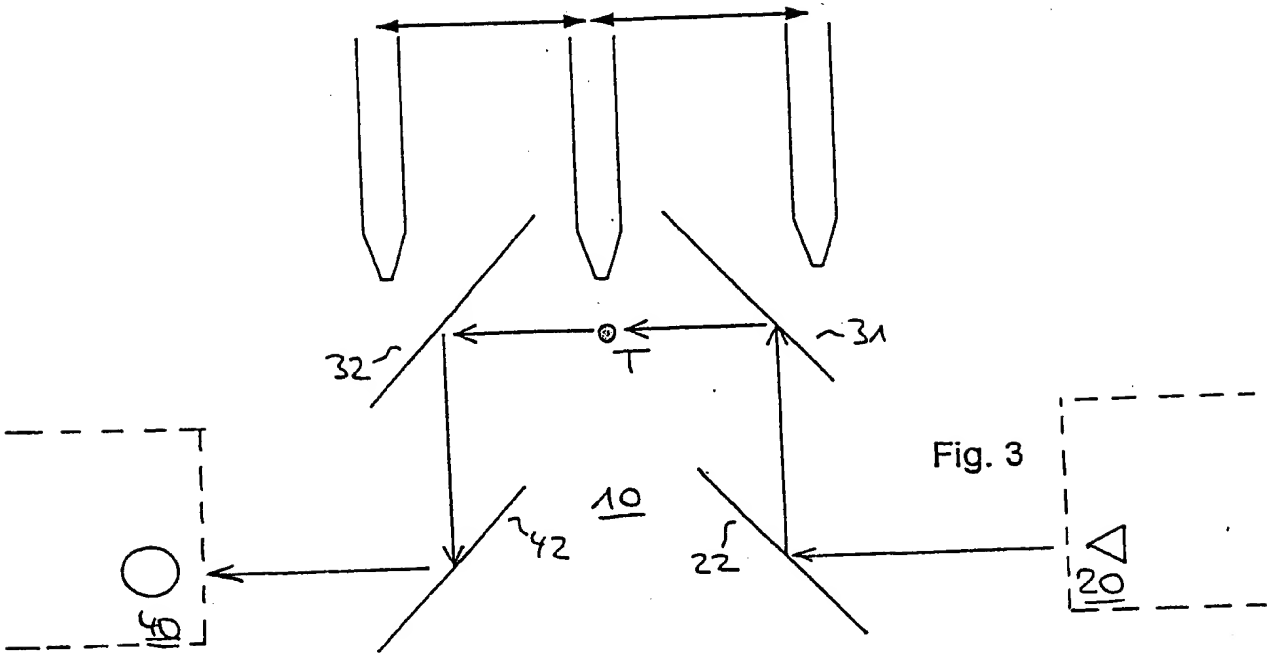
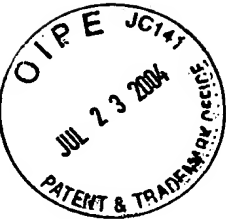
marked-up copy of Figure 4 is enclosed with the legend circled in red. In addition, two sheets of formal drawings are enclosed. Entry of these corrected formal drawings is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 12, 13 and 15-23 are now in allowable form and the specification and drawings are in acceptable format. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Prior Art